

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
FIELD MEDICAL TRAINING BATTALION
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0042

FMST 106

Perform Weapons Handling Procedures with a Service Rifle

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE.

1. Given a service rifle, sling, magazines, individual field equipment, and dummy ammunition, perform weapons handling procedures in accordance with MCRP 8-10B.2. (HSS-MCCS-1004)

2. Given a service rifle, individual field equipment, combat sling, and (2) magazines, demonstrate weapons carries in accordance with the four safety rules. (HSS-MCCS-1007)

b. **ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES.**

1. Without the aid of reference, given a list of choices, **identify the four safety rules for the service carbine**, within 80 percent accuracy, per MCRP 8-10B.2 (HSS-MCCS-1004a)

2. Given a service rifle and sling, **demonstrate assembly and adjustment of the common weapon sling**, so that rifle fits properly and in accordance with MCRP 8-10B.2 (HSS-MCCS-1004b)

3. Given a service rifle, sling, magazines, and ammunition, **fill the magazine** with 30 rounds without error and in accordance with MCRP 8-10B.2 (HSS-MCCS-1004c)

4. Given a service rifle, sling, magazines, individual field equipment, and ammunition, **apply weapons conditions**, without error and in accordance with MCRP 8-10B.2. (HSS-MCCS-1004d)

5. Given a service rifle, sling, magazines, individual field equipment, and ammunition **perform reloads**

(speed and tactical) safely and in accordance with MCRP 8-10B.2. (HSS-MCCS-1004e)

6. Given a service rifle, individual field equipment, combat sling, and (2) magazines, **execute a tactical carry** in accordance with the four safety rules. (HSS-MCCS-1007a)

7. Given a service rifle, individual field equipment, combat sling, and (2) magazines, **execute a ready carry** in accordance with the four safety rules. (HSS-MCCS-1007b)

1. **CHARACTERISTICS.** The M16A4 Service rifle and the M4 Service Carbine (M4 Service Carbine is the TO issue weapon for Corpsmen), (see figures 1-3) are 5.56mm, magazine-fed, gas-operated, air-cooled, shoulder-fired weapons that can be fired either in automatic three-round bursts or semiautomatic single shots as determined by the position of the selector lever.



(Figure 1. M16)



(Figure 2. M4)

M16A4		M4 Carbine
5.56 mm	<i>Caliber</i>	5.56 mm
8.79 pounds	<i>Weight (w/30 round magazine)</i>	6.9 pounds
39 5/8 inches	<i>Length (w/compensator)</i>	29.75 inches w/butt stock closed 33 inches w/butt stock open
800 rounds per minute (approximately)	<i>Cyclic rate of fire</i>	800 rounds per minute (approximately)
	<i>Maximum effective rates of fire:</i>	
45 RPM	<i>Semiautomatic</i>	45 RPM
90 RPM	<i>Burst</i>	90 RPM
12 – 15 RPM	<i>Sustained rate of fire</i>	12 – 15 RPM
	<i>Maximum effective range:</i>	

550 meters	<i>Individual/point targets</i>	500 meters
800 meters	<i>Area targets</i>	600 meters
3534 meters	<i>Maximum range</i>	3600 meters

(Figure 3, Characteristics of each service rifle)

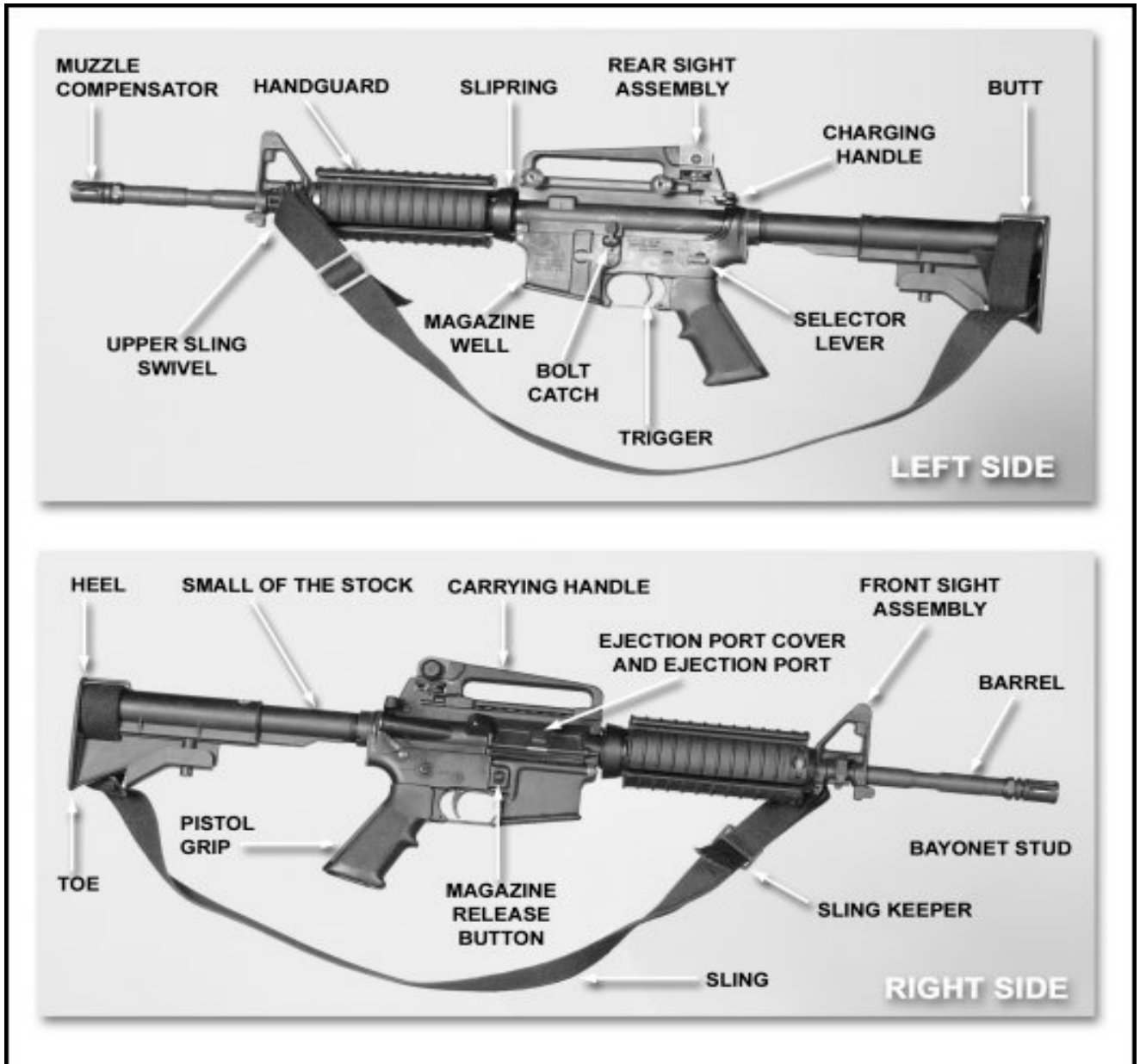


Figure 4. Components of External Parts

3. SAFETY RULES.

The following rules apply to all weapon systems at all times without exception.

SAFETY RULE #1 **Treat every weapon** as if it were loaded

- a. Never trust your memory or make any assumptions about a weapon's safety status. Always confirm what condition your weapon is in if there is ever any doubt.
- b. Check your weapon for ammunition whenever it has been out of your possession.
- c. Never hand a weapon to anyone without clearing it. Clearing is a procedure for ensuring there is no ammunition in the weapon. Whenever you assume control of a weapon from someone, your first action is to clear it, even if you have witnessed its clearing.
- d. Never move in front of a weapon held by someone else.
- e. Never engage in or tolerate horseplay with or around weapons.

SAFETY RULE #2 **Never point a weapon** at anything you do not intend to shoot

- a. Always be aware of muzzle direction and your surroundings. This ensures you will not unintentionally point your weapon at anything other than an intended target.
- b. Be aware of the maximum range of your weapon. If you do not know what is beyond your vision in any unprotected direction, do not point your weapon in that direction.
- c. Never allow the muzzle of your weapon to point at any part of your body.

SAFETY RULE #3 **Keep your finger straight** and off the trigger until you are ready to fire

- a. Never be guilty of a negligent discharge.
- b. A common reaction to a sudden shock or loss of balance while handling a weapon is an unintentional tightening of the grip. If your finger is off the trigger, you will eliminate the potential for firing a shot accidentally.

SAFETY RULE #4 **Keep the weapon on safe** until you intend to fire

The SAFE position on the selector lever is a built-in feature that has only one function. That function is to prevent inadvertent firing of the rifle.

- a. When patrolling or walking it is possible for the trigger to be unintentionally depressed by objects (e.g., branches, wire, gear) encountered en route. Keeping the weapon on safe ensures the weapon will not fire if the trigger is accidentally engaged.
- b. Never trust anyone else regarding a weapon's safety status.

c. INSTRUCTOR NOTE

Have students recite safety rules together as a class.

4. **AMMUNITION.** (see figure 5)

Four types of ammunition are authorized for use with the M16/M4 service rifle: ball, tracer, dummy, and blank. Shown below are: ball M193 round, ball M855 round, and Tracer M196 and M856 (shown as one round), dummy M199 round and blank M200 round.



Figure 5. Ammunition

M193 Ball: This ammunition is a 5.56mm center fire cartridge with a 55-grain gilded metal jacket, lead alloy

core bullet. The primer and case are waterproofed. The M193 ball ammunition has no identifying marks.

M855 Ball:

This ammunition is the primary ammunition for the M16A2 rifle. Identified by a green tip, its 5.56mm center fire cartridge has better penetration than the M193. It has a 62-grain gilded-metal jacket bullet. The rear two-thirds of the core of the projectile is lead alloy and the front one-third is a solid steel penetrator. The primer and case are waterproofed.

M196 and M856 Tracer

This ammunition has the same basic characteristics as ball ammunition. Identified by a bright red tip, its primary uses include observation firing, incendiary effect, and signaling. Tracer ammunition should be intermixed with ball ammunition in a ratio no greater than 1:1. The preferred ratio is one tracer to four balls (1:4) to prevent metal fouling in the bore.

M199 Dummy

This ammunition has six grooves along the side of the case. It contains no propellants or primer. The primer well is open to prevent damage to the firing pin. The dummy cartridge is used during dry fire and other training purposes.

M200 Blank

This ammunition has the case mouth closed with a seven-petal rosette crimp. It contains no projectile. Blank ammunition, identified by its violet tip, is used for training purposes.

5. ASSEMBLY AND ADJUSTMENT OF THE COMMON WEAPON SLING



THE VICKERS COMBAT APPLICATION SLING

The world's standard in weapon slings - the Vickers Combat Application Sling™

- comes ready to attach to a standard M4 /AR15 or similar weapons. Combined with attachment hardware (sold separately), this sling can be adapted to any weapon and offers unparalleled versatility in carry positions and instantaneous adjustment

- all without any webbing tails or springs to fail.

The Vickers Sling™ offers unparalleled versatility to any weapon with the ability to instantly adjust the length of the sling. When shortened, the sling holds the weapon secure and close to the body; when lengthened, the wearer can shoot and fully operate the weapon with freedom of movement and comfort.

Buttstock End Attachment

The buttstock end of the sling is where fixed length adjustments are made (independent of the Quick Adjuster) to the overall length using the two included triglides. Attachment to different buttstocks may vary depending on the weapon, attachment hardware (sold separately), and desired setup.

(ON SLIDE #21)



1. Remove first triglide, insert webbing through slot



2. Re-install triglide on webbing



3. Loop over and back into triglide



4. Thread webbing back through slot



5. Thread tail through triglide already on webbing



6. Thread tail back through first loop lock

Muzzle End Attachment

Attach the Quick Adjuster side of the sling towards the muzzle on M4 / AR15 type or similar type weapons. The sling can be threaded through standard sling loops or used in conjunction with other sling hardware.



1. Thread webbing through swivel



2. Loop webbing over swivel and back through both loops



3. Loop webbing over last loop lock and under the first and Tighten

6. LOADING THE MAGAZINE.

a. Filling the magazine with loose rounds

- (1) Remove a magazine from the magazine pouch
- (2) Place a round on top of the follower
- (3) Press down until the round is held between the follower and magazine feed lips
- (4) Repeat until the desired number of rounds is inserted or you reach max capacity of 30 rounds
- (5) Tap the back of the magazine to ensure the rounds are seated against the back of the magazine

b. Filling the magazine using a 10-round stripper clip and magazine filler

- (1) Remove a magazine from the magazine pouch
- (2) Slide the magazine filler into place
- (3) Place a 10-round stripper clip into the narrow portion of the magazine filler
- (4) Using thumb pressure on the rear of the top cartridge, press down firmly until all ten rounds are below the feed lips of the magazine

(5) Remove the empty stripper clip while holding the magazine filler in place

(6) Repeat until the desired number of rounds is inserted or you reach max capacity of 30 rounds

(7) Remove magazine filler and retain it for future use

(8) Tap the back of the magazine to ensure the rounds are seated against the back of the magazine

7. WEAPONS CONDITIONS.

Condition One

Magazine inserted

Bolt forward

Round in the chamber

Ejection port cover closed

Weapon on safe

Condition Two

Not applicable for the M16/M4

Condition Three

Magazine inserted

Bolt forward

Chamber empty

Condition Four (Leave the M16/M-4 in this condition unless told to do otherwise)

Magazine removed

Bolt forward

Chamber empty

Ejection port cover closed

Weapon on safe

8. RELOADS. The first priority when performing a reload is to get the rifle reloaded and back into action. The second priority when performing a reload is to retain the magazine so when you move, the magazine moves with you. When time permits, retain magazines securely on your person (e.g., in magazine pouch, flak jacket, cargo pocket). The combat situation may dictate dropping the magazine to the deck when performing a reload. This is acceptable as long as it is picked up before moving to another location.

Take cover before reloading. Always reload before leaving cover to take advantage of the protection provided by cover.

□□Every effort should be made not to reload on the move. When moving, your focus should be on moving.

□□When reloading, your focus should be on reloading only. Do not focus on the enemy; focus instead on the magazine change.

□□When reloading, draw the weapon in close to your body so you can see what you are doing and retain positive control of the magazine.

□□When the new magazine is inserted, tug on it to ensure it is seated. Do not slam the magazine into the weapon hard enough to cause a round to partially pop out of the magazine. This action will cause a double feed and require remedial action.

□□Retain your empty magazines. When there is a lull in the action, refill those magazines so they will be available for future use.

□□During a lull in the action, replace your magazine when you know you are low on ammunition. This ensures a full magazine of ammunition in the rifle should action resume. Do not wait until the magazine is completely empty to replace it.

□□If a reload in any position other than prone is required, use a magazine from the left magazine pouch. This leaves filled magazines on the right for reloading in the prone position.

a. **SPEED RELOAD** A speed reload is required when the magazine in the weapon has been emptied and the bolt has locked to the rear. It is conducted as quickly as possible.

- To perform a speed reload, keep the trigger finger straight, press the magazine release button, and remove the empty magazine as follows:

- Right-handed Marines should press the magazine release with the index finger of the firing hand.

- Left-handed Marines should press the magazine release with the thumb of the non-firing hand.

Note: While on the move, if the bolt is locked to the rear, it is imperative to continue moving while reloading.

- Insert a filled magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure that it is properly seated.
- Depress the bolt catch to allow the bolt carrier to move forward. Observe the round being chambered:
 - Right-handed Marines should strike the upper portion of the bolt catch with the palm of their support hand.
 - Left-handed Marines should slide their non-firing hand around the front of the magazine well and strike the upper portion of the bolt catch with the fingers of their non-firing hand. This places the Service rifle in Condition 1.

b. **TACTICAL RELOAD**

a. Tactical Reload. A Tactical Reload is performed when there is a round in the chamber by replacing the magazine before the weapon runs dry. It is intended as a method to maintain maximum rounds available when there is a lull in an engagement. To perform a Tactical Reload:

- Withdraw a magazine from the initial load pouch or the next furthest away magazine pouch.
- Grasp the filled magazine.
- Grasp the magazine to be replaced high on the magazine with the thumb and fingers, controlling both magazines with the same hand.
- Depress the magazine release button to remove the magazine.

NOTE

Right-handed shooter using the left hand: Press the magazine release with the index finger of the right hand and remove the magazine with the left hand.

Left-handed shooter using the right hand: Bring the left hand to the slip ring and wrap the hand around the magazine

well. Press the magazine release button with the thumb of the left hand and remove the magazine with the right hand.

- Observe the magazine to ensure it is filled.
- Fully insert the magazine into the magazine well until the magazine catch engages the magazine. The magazine catch will "click" as it engages, which can be felt or heard by the shooter. Without releasing the magazine, tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is seated.
- Retain the partially filled magazine.
- Fasten the magazine pouch.

9. **CARRIES**. Weapons carries provide an effective way to handle the rifle while remaining alert to enemy engagement. Weapons carries are tied to threat conditions and are assumed in response to a specific threat situation. The weapons carry assumed prepares the Marine, both mentally and physically, for target engagement. The sling provides additional support for the weapon when firing; therefore, the sling should be used in conjunction with the carries. The sling provides additional support for the weapon when firing; therefore, the hasty sling should be used in conjunction with the carries.

a. Tactical Carry. A Marine carries the rifle at the Tactical Carry if no immediate threat is present. The Tactical Carry permits control of the rifle while a Marine is moving, yet it still allows quick engagement of the enemy. A Marine performs the following steps to assume the Tactical Carry:

□□ Place the left hand on the handguards, the right hand around the pistol grip, the trigger finger straight along the receiver and the right thumb on top of the selector lever.

□□ Place the buttstock along the side of the body at approximately hip level.

□□ Angle the muzzle upward about 45 degrees in a safe direction.

□□ Position the muzzle in front of the eyes, slightly below eye level (see figure 3-17).

□□ Move the head and the eyes with the muzzle as it moves.

b. Ready Carry. A Marine carries the rifle at the Ready if contact with the enemy is imminent. The ready

allows immediate target engagement, but it is very tiring to maintain over a long period of time.

A Marine performs the following steps to assume the Ready:

- Place the left hand on the handguards, the right hand around the pistol grip, the trigger finger straight along the receiver, and the right thumb on top of the selector lever

- Place the buttstock in the shoulder.

- Point the muzzle in the direction of the enemy.

- Lower the sights to just below eye level so that a clear field of view is maintained so that a target may be identified

c. ALERT Carry. Enemy contact is likely. Engagement is faster than Tactical carry. More fatiguing than the Tactical carry.

Marine performs the following steps to assume the alert:

- ▣ Place the left hand on the handguards, the right hand around the pistol grip, the trigger finger straight along the receiver, and the right thumb on top of the selector lever.

- ▣ Place the buttstock in the shoulder. 1 Angle the muzzle downward about 45 degrees and point it in a safe direction or the general direction of likely enemy contact (see fig. 3-20).

d. CONTROLLED Carry. (***Three-Point Sling Controlled Carry***) This carry is used when no immediate danger is present and the weapon—

- Is on SAFE.
- Hangs muzzle down in front of the body. The muzzle should point down, just to the outside of the feet, with the buttstock at approximately armpit level. The Marine maintains constant muzzle awareness.

- Is controlled with the firing hand grasping the pistol grip.

10. PERFORM CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR A STOPPAGE OR MALFUNCTION

If the Service rifle fails to fire, corrective action should be performed by the Marine. Corrective action is the process of investigating the cause of the stoppage,

clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to proper operating status. Once the Service rifle ceases firing, the Marine must physically or visually observe the ejection port to identify the problem before he can clear it. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on observation of one of the indicators discussed in the following subparagraphs:

➤ ***Indicator: Bolt is Forward or Ejection Port Cover is Closed***

The Marine will depress the trigger and hear a click and feel the hammer fall without a shot being fired.

- To return the weapon to proper operating status, first seek cover if the tactical situation permits, and then-
- Tap (tap the bottom of the magazine).
 - Rack (pull the charging handle to the rear and release it).
 - Bang (sight in and attempt to fire).



BOLT FORWARD



EJECTION PORT COVER CLOSED

➤ ***Indicator: Bolt is Locked to the Rear***

Although a dry weapon is not considered a true stoppage or mechanical failure, the Marine must take action to return the weapon to operation. If the Marine observes that the bolt is locked to the rear, the weapon has run dry, and the Marine will perform the following steps to return the weapon to normal operation:

- Conduct a speed reload.
- Sight in and attempt to fire.



BOLT LOCKED TO THE REAR

➤ ***Indicator: Visible Obstruction***

A visual obstruction usually indicates a failure to eject or a double feed. This occurs when a round and a piece of brass become stuck in the chamber or two rounds become stuck in the chamber. The Marine will attempt to depress the trigger and will feel a mushy trigger or the Marine can feel the weapon fail to completely cycle. To return the weapon to operation—

- Seek cover if the tactical situation permits.
- Pull the charging handle and attempt to lock it to the rear.
- Hold the charging handle to the rear, rotate the Service rifle so that the ejection port is facing down, and shake the Service rifle to free the brass/round. Maintain pressure to keep the charging handle to the rear.
- Attempt to remove the magazine if the brass/round does not shake free.

Maintain pressure to keep the charging handle to the rear and hold it.

- Strike the butt of the Service rifle on the ground or manually clear the brass/round.

Note: The stock on the M4 must be fully collapsed before striking the butt on the deck.

- Conduct a reload.
- Sight in and attempt to fire.



VISIBLE OBSTRUCTION

➤ **Indicator: Brass is Stuck Above the Bolt**

When brass is stuck above the bolt, the Marine will perform the following steps to clear and return the weapon to operation:

- Seek cover if the tactical situation permits.
- Attempt to place the weapon on SAFE.
- Remove the magazine.
- Pull the charging handle to the rear until resistance is met and hold it.
- Rotate the Service rifle so that the ejection port is facing you.
- Push the bolt face back with a sturdy object (e.g., stripper clip, knife, multi-purpose tool).
- Rotate the muzzle down, and observe the brass clearing the chamber.
- Perform a reload.

- Sight in and attempt to fire.

➤ **Indicator: Audible Pop, Reduced Recoil, or Black Smoke**

An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant is ignited. It is normally identifiable by reduced recoil and is sometime accompanied by excessive black smoke escaping from the chamber area.

To clear the Service rifle in a combat environment—

- Place the Service rifle in Condition 4.
- Move the take-down pin from left to right as far as it will go to allow the lower receiver to pivot.
- Remove the bolt-carrier group.
- Inspect the bore for obstruction from the chamber end.
- Insert a cleaning rod into the bore from the least blocked end to clear the obstruction, pushing in the direction that requires the least amount of travel. This may require striking the cleaning rod with a hard object to push the projectile through the barrel.
- Reassemble the Service rifle.
- Conduct a reload.
- Sight in and attempt to fire.

REFERENCE(S):

Marine Corps Combat Marksmanship Program MCO 3574.2_
Rifle Marksmanship MCRP 8-10B.2